THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 1925

The past is secure. Beverly is wise to make much of the great events that have occurred there. Events that have had much to do in the shaping of the destinies of the nation. Last week a monument was dedicated to three things in the presence of a large and cultured audience. To David Tygart and the Files family; to the coming of Wm. Westfall and the fort named for him at Beverly, and to the battle of Rich Mountain. Captain Cobb, president of the Randolph County Historical Society presided; Mrs. Ben Hoover, president of the Daughters of the Confederacy, spoke and read in ringing tones the address prepared for the occasion by Historian Thomas J. Arnold; Hon. Ed Baker, a descendant of the pioneers who first laid the rail made an address; Mrs. Rummell, president of the Womans' Clubs, made a fine oration. She glorified the heroes of the wars and hoped/we would never have another one. Amen. And they did me the honor of making me an added starter, on the program.

Beverly is the old county seat at the mouth of Files Creek, and at one time thought it had suffered a disaster in losing the court house, but since it has become the fashionable and exclusive suburban town that it is, there are no longer any regrets concerning the delicate topic.

Mother and I arrived there about an hour early on our long trip across the mountain and went to see Major Randolph Stalnaker who lives like a king there. When he laid down the task of directing the destinies of West Virginia, he bought the Goff mansion and built one of these million dollar porches around it. He must be getting up in years a bit for he was secretary of state fifty years ago, but it has always been a profound mystery what his age may be On his broad porch waiting the hour and the arrival of the lassies of the state federation of womens' clubs then in annual session at Elkins, was gathered a bevy of ladies and gentlemen, and the talk slid back and forth.

Some one asked where was the speaking to be? And someone said the old town darkey had named it: "It was to be at The Rock." The rock was the boulder from Rich Mountain such as two strong oxen might move on a stone sled in which the tablet was inserted. The Rock is set in the plat of green sod surrounded by the most gorgeous border of brilliant flowers.

Another remembered legend of the confusion that ensued in 1861 when Beverly changed hands over night from the Confederate army to the Union army, and a prominent citizen was seen escaping carrying a valuable but diminutive slave on his back, and the discussion that ensued as to whether he was saving personable property or carrying a free nigger

And the Major recalled his boyhood days in Lewisburg when he went to the colored church and heard the sermon from the text: And Solomon had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and the response from the pew by the old colored sister: "Dere was men in dem days."

There was a time in 1861, when the names of Rich Mountain rang throughout the civilized world and it is not too much to say that the destiny of the nation was changed by the success of the Union army at Rich Mountain. In the early days of the Civil War the North was divided on the qusstion of whether or not the erring sisters should go in peace. The South seceded on the theory that they had a right to a peaceful dissolution of the Union. There had been no solidification of sentiment. The battle of Bull Run in the same month had been lost to the Union cause and the capital was threatened Fort Sumpter had been surrendered. Gen. D. H. Hill defeated Gen. Butler at Big Bethel. Gen. Price defeated Gen. Lyon at Wilson's Creek. The Union Army was repulsed at Greenbrier River. Gen. Reynolds in command of the Union army. Gen. Milroy of the Union Army was defeated at the Top of Allegheny December 13. The first year of the war closed with but one notable success by the Union Army and that was the victory of the battle of Rich Mountain by which the Confederate army under Gen. Garnett was scattered, captured and destroyed. It made McClellan commander in chief of the Northern armies and shaped the course of the subsequent campaigns.

The first clash of arms occurred at Philippi, June 3rd, 1861, just before day in a heavy rainstorm. The Confederates withdrew from that town and within a month a very considerable army had formed at Beverly under Gen. Garnett. He had about ten thousand men. McClellan with about twenty thousand men had headquarters at Buckhannon. Both towns are an the Staunton & Parkersburg turnpike, thirty miles apart, with Rich Mountain lying between the two places, nearer to Beverly. Garnett divided his force into three parts. He took with him 6000 soldiers and built a fortification with earth and timbers on Laurel Hill on the Philippi road. Laurel Hill corresponds to Rich Mountain, being divided from it by the breaking through of the Tygart Valley River. Pegram was sent with 200 men to build a similar fortification on the West brow of Rich Mountain two miles west of the Hart farm on the eastern brow of the mountain. Col. W. C. Scott was left in command of the base at Beverly with some two thousand troops.

On the evening of July 10th, McClellan arrived at the Middle Fork River having ordered an advance all along his lines. He determined to attack Pegram the next day, having ordered Gen. Morris to feign an attack on Garnett on Laurel Hill. On the evening of the 10th, Gen. Rosecrans came to McClellan with young Alexander Hart. Hart told McClellan that his father lived on the pike two miles in the rear and east of Pegram's fort, and that he could lead an army around so that the attack could be made on the front and rear at the same time.

Rosecrans with about two thousand men led by Hart made a tiresome march a long way round on the south side of the pike and got to a point that placed him in a position for a rear attack and sent a dispatch to McClellan that he was ready. The messenger did not get through. Pegram's men got him and Pegram learning that he was about to be surrounded, rushed 310 men back to to the Hart farm and got there in time to shelter in the farm buildings, behind fences, and behind some immense boulders lying in the gap on the right hand side of the road.

Rosecrans attacked coming down through the woods and the battle lasted about three hours in the rain. One piece of artillery was used. It was a hot fight. The 310 men maintained themselves in a forlorn hope as gallantly as any ever so exposed. As Mrs. Hoover said the other day it was equal to the charge of the Light Brigade.

They were overwhelmed and when the firing ceased, Scott's army was strung out between the top of the mountain to Beverly. He retreated to Monterey. The Federals occupied Beverly. Pegram's men left their dead and badly wounded and got back to the breastworks to the west. He first decided to renew the battle and marched a number of men back to a point near the battle ground, but decided not to attack, and then they all returned to camp which they reached about 11 o'clock at night A council of war decided to go north and join Gen. Garnett on Laurel Hill. They abandoned the breastworks at 1 a. m. They went through the mountains in a northern direction covering twelve miles to the Tygart Valley River in eighteen hours reaching that river by about 6 p. m. on the 12th of July.

Rosecrans and his men were so fatigued by their forced march in the night before the battle and by the battle that they lay on their arms on the battle field. On the 12th McClellan took possession of Beverly.

Pegram arrived at the river on the evening of the 12th, found that Garnett had moved out of his fortified place and headed north towards Parsons and that a Federal Army followed him along the road. Pegram not liking the idea of being the third in the procession, headed his men east intending to escape through Pendleton county by a road that passed within three miles of Beverly, but decided that as his men were hungry and that there was no chance of feeding them, when he got to the Kittle farm, and after another council of war, sent a dispatch to McClellan at Beverly, offering to surrender as prisoners of war. McClellan, styling the Confederate commander, as John Pegram, Esq., agreed to this, but refused to promise immunity in Washington from any disability incurred by taking arms against the United States. And as they marched to Beverly they met the Federal bread wagons bringing food for the hungry soldiers.

Garnett was overtaken at Carricks Ford at Cheat River and was killed.

The Confederate army reformed at Monterey with regiments from Staunton. Gen. H. R. Jackson succeeded Garnett in command. He marched his army to Marlins Bottom and went into camp. Gen. Loring was at Camp Northwest (Minnehaha Springs) ten miles east of Marlinton. These two armies were consolidated under Gen. R. E. Lee, who advanced them to Linwood, where they faced the Federals at Elkwater for some weeks. The Federals occupied White Top on Cheat facing the fortified positions of the Confederates on the top of Allegheny until winter.

The success of the Federal Army in this mountain campaign effectually sealed the border. By the opening of the new year, the Federals had 640,000 men against the Confederates against 210,000 in the Confederate army, and the Confederates only hope of permission to separate was lost forever.

A few words on the subject of the first settlers of the rich lands in the upper part of Tygarts Valley. A rich valley some thirty miles long, and as much as three miles broad, it must have been the choice hunting ground of all the lands in West Virginia, and jealously guarded by the Indians.

David Tygart and Robert Files made homes on the river that bears Tygart's name That these were settlements and not merely a hunting ground expedition, is proven by the fact that they built houses, and Files, at least had his family with him. Files settled at Beverly and Tygart near the bridge above Beverly. Preston spells the name Foyles, but it has been spelled Files so long that I am loath to accept a modification of the spelling.

In 1753, it had been so long since Virginia had had any serious troubles with the Indians, that little or no apprehension of danger was suffered by the pioneers. In that year, incursions on the Indian reservation on the Western Waters accompanied by the dispute between England and France, started an Indian warfare that was to wage incessantly for more than thirty years so far as the contest for lands in what is now West Virginia is concerned.

Col. William Preston made a list of Augusta county people who had been killed, or wounded, or taken prisoner from the years 1754 to 1758, inclusive, 301 in the list. The Files family, consisting of father, mother, and five children, heads this list, and it is pretty certain that they were the first victims of the many thousands slain There is no recorded history of any such slaughter at any other place or at any other time as occurred along this border. It was a feud. Men were born, raised, and lived through their active years, trained in a peculiar warfare that fastened on them like a habit or a passion. The mountaineers of West Virginia have all been marked by those times.

File's oldest son came in sight of his father's clearing in time to see all the rest of his family destroyed by the Indians. He escaped to warn David Tygart and they fled east. I think this massacre occurred in December, 1753. Then for nearly twenty years no effort was made to settle that valley, though reports of its desirability. But settlements extended down from Pennsylvania to the west of it, and the Greenbrier Valley filled up, and presently in 1772, all the Tygarts Valley from Elkins up was taken in a single year, and it is a fair conjecture that it was so settled in force for mutual protection.

William Westfall took up the desirable land at Beverly and his first duty was to collect the bones of the Files family which had lain unburied for eighteen or twenty years. So well had the pioneers kept away from the well guarded valley, that there had been none before him to make the interment. He found the ruins of the Indian village at Mingo and the fact that the bones of the Files family still existed indicates that their cabin must have been standing.

The valley must have prospered fast for in October 1786, the county of Randolph was formed, some fourteen years after the first permanent settlement Randolph County fell heir to whatever rights Harrison county had to the territory on the upper part of Greenbrier River. There was the same sort of confusion in those days as to what was the district of West Augusta and the counties that were formed from it, as exists today when the tourist crosses the mountains that form the Appalachian chain. For instance they have a hard time distinguishing between Cheat Mountain and the Alleghany, or as the pioneer learned to call them: Main Allegheny and Back Alleghenies. It is probable that Augusta meant to keep the upper part of Greenbrier River. But it was finally adjusted by the formation of the county of Bath in 1791.

There is a pioneer hero who was brought up in Randolph County before his removal in 1790 to Kentucky, who can be claimed by Randolph county. Joseph Logston was the champion of all the western waters when it came to lifting, running, jumping, or fighting. He was the strong man of the frontier.

There is an account of a contest with two Indians that I remember appealed to my boyish imagination as just about the grandest affair that was ever pulled off.

He was riding along a trail in the woods near a fort, when he was fired upon by two Indians lying in ambush. One of the balls wounded him by passing sideways through his breats, and the other killed his horse. He was not seriously wounded as the ball had missed the breastbone. He was eased off his horse and had a loaded gun. Two Indians seeing this took shelter behind trees and one of them exposed his hips in loading and Logston shot him through the hips and that Indian fell. The other Indian, a very large powerful savage then advanced with his tomahawk which was thrown and dodged. Then Logston attempted to club the Indian with his gun but it hit a sapling and was broken and the gun flew out of his hands. The Indian and the white man then grappled and wrestled for some time without either securing any advantage. Logston appeared to be stronger but the Indian was greased and hard to hold. Logston then changed tactics and knocked the Indian down, and the Indian tried to draw a knife which Logston succeeded in getting hold of and this Indian was dispatched.

Turning his attention to the wounded Indian, Logston found that he had reloaded the gun and had crawled to a place by a log but could not raise the gun-barrel to shoot. And when he would try this, he would fall forward and would painfully push himself up to a sitting position by means of the gun.

Logston left the scene of his encounter and went to the fort and related his experience. On returning with others the next morning it was found that the crippled Indian had hid the dead body of his companion, and had use dhis knife to kill himself.

Randolph county is paying a great deal of attention to history, and a suggestion is here made that after due investigation that in some way the name of Joseph Logston be added to the hall of fame It seems that after Logston went to the county of Kentucky that he was killed as a member of a vigilante committee contending with an organized band of horsethieves.

In passing through the delectable town of Beverly on the Seneca Trail, do not fail to observe The Rock.

FARM FOR SALE

Two good orchards—good summer and winter apples; eight bearing peach trees. A four room house and good well, also running water; fine garden; some good timber and locust for posts; good grazing or farming land; milk house, chicken house, barn and cellar. Also two cows, 2 two year old heifers, 1 calf, one sow and pigs, 15 turkeys, some chickens, household and kitchen furniture; 1 fine green gage plum tree, and pear tree—large trees bearing fruit. About 20 acres cleared; 57 acres in all, lying two miles from Poage Lane church and school house and one mile from Big Run station. Good neighborhood. Car road to the house. Will sell all together or make a separate sale after farm is sold. If interested, come to see or write to Mary E. Dominici, Cloverlick, W. Va.

Auction Sale

I will sell at public auction on the 10th day of October, 1925 at my farm near Linwood, W. Va. beginning at 10 a. m. the following named property:

1 team of matched Shire colts 4 and 5 years old,
8 ewes, 2 Dorset bucks,
1 cow will milk all winter,
1 grain drill, one grain cradle,
All my household and kitchen furniture including:
2 dressers, 1 Cornish organ,
1 phonograph and records,
1 table, 2 rugs 9x12, 4 small rugs,
A lot of carpet filling, 1 rocker,
1 couch, 3 stand tables,
1 folding bed, 5 bed steads,
7 pair of bed springs, 1 buffet,
3 heating stoves, 1 kitchen cabinet,
1 cupboard, 6 chairs,
1 dining table, 1 clothes press,
A lot of dishes, jars and alumium ware and other things too numerous mention.

Terms announced on day of sale.

E. H. HAMRICK

Ashford, auc.

FARM FOR SALE

Farm of 45 acres 3 1-2 miles from Frost, all improved and under fence; 6 room house and outbuildings; fruit for home use; plenty of water. Will sell for $1,000 to a quick buyer. Immediate possession given. Call on or address Jacob A. Mace, Dunmore, W. Va.

BOX SUPPER

There will be a box supper at the Frost School house, October 10th, beginning at 7.30 p m., for the benefit of the school. Everybody invited to come and have a good time.

Kathleen Bussard.

FIDUCIARY NOTICE

The final settlement of the guardianship of Mrs. Malinda C. Hannah, guardian of Veo P. Hannah, is before the undersigned commissioner of accounts for settlement.

T. S. McNeel, Com'r.

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NOTICE

My wife, Blanche Collins, having left my home without just cause this is to notify all persons that I will not be responsible for any debts she may contract.

This 7th day of September, 7, 1925

J. M. Collins.

Marlinton, W. Va.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS—After selecting all my exhibition birds for the Pocahontas and Greenbrier Fairs, I have a few nice cockerels left: weight about 4 1-2 lbs; Holterman's Aristocrat strain. These are all well marked and are as nice those you will see at the above fairs. Price $3.50 each.

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P. T. Ward, Secretary-Treasurer, Pocahontas county National Farm Loan Association.

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Public Auction

As I am preparing to move out of the State, I will sell at public auction the following property, at my place between Marlinton and Huntersville on Thursday, October 15, 1925 beginning at 10 o'clock a. m.

60 gal barrel of kraut, 1 bureau,
1 Singer sewing machine,
4 beds, mattresses and springs,
1 eight day clock, 1 alarm clock,
1 16 guage shot gun, 1 cot,
1 half bed, 9 chairs, 1 rocker,
2 feather beds, sheets, blankets,
9 pillows,
1 large sausage mill,
200 empty fruit jars,
40 full jars huckleberries,
1 kitchen cabinet, 1 safe,
1 refrigeartor, lot of dishes,
1 table, 1 churn, 1 wood heater,
1 Home Comfort cook stove,
1 twenty-four gal kettle,
1 pr of heavy black horses 5 and 6 years old,
1 wagon, good as new,
1 set of logging harness,
1 good cow, 7 yrs. old,
1 calf 9 months old,
1 hog, 1 shoat, 40 chickens,
250 bushels of corn and fodder,
50 bushels of buckwheat,
20 bu of potatoes,
5 hoes, 1 spike tooth harrow,
1 No. 20 Oliver hill plow,
1 double shovel plow,
1 layoff plow, 1 grind stone,
And many other articles of value.

I will offer for sale my place consisting of 228 1 2 acres of land. This is good land, lying on Marlinton and Huntersville road.

Terms of Sale: All sums of $10 and under cash, over that amount a credit of six months, note and approved security.

G. W. Alderman

Barlow Auctioneer.

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12 acres of land one-half mile from Millpoint, 1-2 mile of school; in reach of Hillsboro high school by bus; near church, good neighborhood. All of it can be cultivated; 4 room house, barn and other outbuildings.

Eustace Brindle,

Buckeye, W. Va.

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Pocahontas County History

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POCAHONTAS TIMES

Marlinton, W. Va

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